

UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

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Wednesday, October 1, 2025

Subway Webinar

If you are interested in the progress being made in the extension of the subway to Westwood/UCLA and the VA, an online webinar is available from LA Metro:



About this event

Join us for a lunchtime webinar on the D Line Extension Transit Project. This session will provide key updates on Sections 1, 2, 3 and Division 20 Portal Widening & Turnback Facility, including construction timelines, major milestones, and how these new stations will improve transit access from Downtown to the Westside.

Date & Time: Wednesday, October 8, noon

Please click the link below to join the webinar: <https://zoom.us/j/96626476708>

Webinar ID: 966 2647 6708

Phone: 213.338.8477

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:10 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [transportation](#), [UCLA](#)

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

Infrequently Asked Questions



At the special Legislative Assembly meeting scheduled for later today, the agenda* contains various documents which raise questions about consultation with the Senate on various matters including the campus budget.

Here are some budget-related issues yours truly hopes will be raised.

UCLA spent \$80 million to buy the campus of a defunct Catholic college on Palos Verdes, ostensibly to deal with enrollment pressures. But Palos Verdes is far from Westwood and is difficult to access by public transportation. It is also subject to well-publicized ground instability not far from the UCLA purchase. What kind of consultation with the Senate occurred before this expenditure? What is the cost of maintaining the site while someone figures out what uses it might serve?

UCLA purchased the Westside Pavilion for a research facility at a cost of \$700 million. Is the projected revenue to support this site in any way jeopardized by the conflict with federal authorities over research funding? If there is some jeopardy, what are the budget contingency plans? Was the Senate consulted about the original purchase or the contingency plans?

UCLA has made various hospital purchases in recent times. Are these purchases in any way jeopardized by the current conflict with federal authorities? Might Medicare or Medi-Cal (Medicaid) funding be affected by the conflict? If so, what contingent budget plans are being made? Was the Senate consulted about the purchases or the contingency plans?

UCLA athletics is being affected by the national evolution of college sports to a more professional commercial model, thanks in part to court decisions related to payments to student athletes. UCLA recently changed athletic conferences, angering the governor, provoking Regental actions, and leading to a *de facto* tax on UCLA being paid to UC-Berkeley. Is the Senate being consulted about potential pressures on the campus budget related to these developments? Is the Senate involved in contingency planning should projected revenues from college sports fall short of estimates?

UCLA produces annual budget figures and reports having an annual budget of around \$11 billion. But the latest published annual budget report on the web covers fiscal year 2022-23. We are now in 2025-26. Planning for 2026-27 surely will begin soon. Does the Senate have access to up-to-date budget data so that it can offer its views on fiscal matters on a timely basis?

The Council of UC Faculty Associations

- Letter from AAUP to UC Objecting to Trellix
- Judge rules Trump demands of UCLA must be made public
- Faculty are fighting back
- Faculty Lawsuit Demands Public Access to Trump Administration's Settlement Demands on University of California
- Coalition of UC unions condemns Trump's attacks on the UC and the California economy

Remaking the University

- [Liner Note 40. AI's Two Pathways: 2025 Has Discredited Booster Assumptions of 2024 - 10/11/2025](#)
- [Liner Note 39. Attack Theory for Education - 9/28/2025](#)
- [Liner Note 38. The University of California's Charlie Kirk Tribute Act - 9/16/2025](#)

Higher Ed. News & Commentary

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These questions get into sensitive areas. As this excerpt from a Sept. 8th letter from EVC Hunt contained in the agenda suggests, the administration may prefer not to answer: [underline added]

Budget Consultation

The letter claims there was no meaningful consultation with the Senate on the 2025-26 budget. That is incorrect. Senate representatives had multiple opportunities for engagement with the EVCP, CFO, and Academic Planning and Budget. The absence of a formal budget memo to CPB does not equate to exclusion from the process.

The suggestion that strategic workgroups represent a breakdown of shared governance mischaracterizes how institutions function in periods of fiscal instability. Administrative working groups are standard practice. They are necessary for timely and coordinated planning. They do not replace consultation, but they are not subject to it either. As made clear in University policy, the Senate does not have budgetary authority.

Agenda at <https://dms.senate.ucla.edu/~councils.and.committees/?LgA.meetings>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [UCLA](#)

Straws in the Wind - Part 116

From [Inside Higher Ed](#): *The Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education agreed to terminate its offering of in-state tuition to undocumented students, according to a settlement filed in court Monday. WKU Public Radio reported. The termination of reduced tuition remains tentative, as the settlement has yet to be signed by a district court judge, but if it does come to fruition, Kentucky would be the third state to capitulate to demands of the Trump administration on the issue. President Trump's Department of Justice has sued multiple states over their policies that provide in-state tuition to undocumented students, arguing that doing so discriminates against out-of-state Americans. Republican-led states that were sued quickly agreed to scrap the policies. But Kentucky, governed by a Democrat, took longer. (Similar lawsuits against Minnesota and Illinois are still pending.)*



The state attorney general, a Republican, told the council that the lawsuit would be a "losing fight," WKU reported...

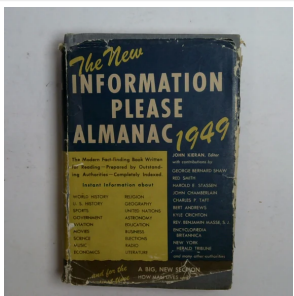
Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2025/09/25/kentucky-end-state-tuition-undocumented-students>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:20 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [diversity](#), [politics](#), [U of Kentucky](#)

Information Please

From the [San Diego Union-Tribune](#): *UC San Diego faculty are voicing concerns about students' and employees' personal information potentially being shared with the federal government for a civil rights investigation, raising concerns on campus that those people could end up being targeted by the Trump administration. Neither UCSD nor the University of California would say whether San Diego students and staff were affected, and if so how many, what information about them was shared or when their information may have been shared. UCSD declined to comment, deferring instead to the UC Office of the President...*



UC has said it is required to comply with federal agencies' information requests related to investigations, compliance reviews and audits... UCSD and other campuses are also required to provide information about certain students and employees as part of a resolution agreement the UC struck with the federal government in December. The UC made a deal with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights to address complaints against five UC campuses — San Diego, Los Angeles, Santa Cruz, Davis and Santa Barbara — about discrimination based on actual or perceived ancestry, including Jewish, Israeli, Palestinian, Arab and Muslim ancestry... UC is required by Sept. 30 to provide the federal office a spreadsheet of all complaints alleging discrimination at the five campuses, including the names of complainants, of individuals who allegedly committed the discrimination and of witnesses.

The UC also agreed to provide, upon request by the civil rights office, copies of entire investigative files for complaints, which can include student or employee disciplinary records and personnel files...

Full story at <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/2025/09/26/uc-san-diego-student-employee-information-was-shared-with-trump-administration-for-investigation/>.

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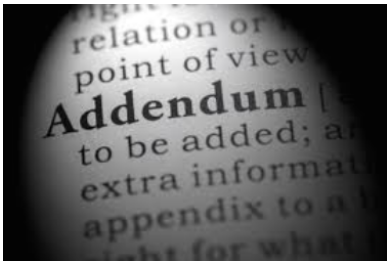
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Monday, September 29, 2025

More Addendum



The agenda for the upcoming meeting of the Legislative Assembly contains the item below. A reminder that the meeting has been relocated to the California NanoSystems Institute (CNSI) Auditorium.

Senate members, whether members of the Legislative Assembly or not, should have received a notice of the meeting with a link to indicate attendance. Any Senate member can attend; only those who are members of the Legislative

Assembly can vote.

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August 28, 2025

Darnell Hunt

Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost (EVCP), UCLA

Re: 2024-25 State of Shared Governance at UCLA

Dear EVCP Hunt,

I'm writing to summarize the state of shared governance at UCLA during the 2024-25 academic year. There were some areas of progress, particularly regarding communication protocols about instructional modality during emergencies and the very recent inclusion of the Senate Chair as a permanent member of the Chancellor's Cabinet. But these gains were overshadowed by the magnitude of deficiencies regarding proactive consultation with the Senate on this year's budget, and the troubling trend of excluding the Senate from critical early stages of decision-making.

Shared governance is mandated by the University of California in Regents Bylaw 40.1 which "recognize[s] that faculty participation in the shared governance of the University through the agency of the Academic Senate ensures the quality of instruction, research and public service at the University and protects academic freedom" (UC Regents Bylaw 40.1). The Regents have delegated authority over admissions, degrees, courses, and educational policy to the Academic Senate, and formally empowered the Senate to create "committees to advise the President and Chancellors on campus and University budgets."

Shared governance helps the Administration make better informed decisions, decisions that take into account the expertise and experiences of the Senate Faculty who carry out the university's academic mission. We have repeatedly seen the deleterious consequences of decisions made without Senate consultation: the ASE contract negotiations, Ascend, various real estate purchases, and the graduate funding crisis.

Budget. There was no meaningful Senate consultation on the 2025-26 budget. The Council on Planning and Budget (CPB) received no data or other written materials from the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) about the budget situation, and was unable to fulfill its duty to "specifically review and formally articulate a Senate view regarding the campus budget and each major campus space-use and building project at each project's proposal, planning, and building stages." (Divisional Bylaw 65.3.C) We appreciate your promise that the CFO will work with CPB in accordance with this bylaw in the 2025-26 academic year. A repeat of this year's failure by Administration to provide data and solicit substantive Senate advice on the budget will damage not only the level of trust between Administration and Faculty, but also the likelihood of buy-in and support for any additional budgetary measures that may be needed.

Workgroups without Senate Representation. In the absence of consultation with CPB, strategic decisions regarding the budget and deficit reduction were made by an unofficial, behind-the-scenes administrative workgroup from which the Senate was excluded, despite repeated requests by Senate leadership. Similarly, campus strategy with regard to the future of graduate education was developed by an administrative workgroup. Here, too the Senate was excluded despite repeated requests. A letter on this subject from the Senate Chair went unanswered.

Senate consultation must not be shirked. The above concern about excluding the Senate is greatly mitigated when there is meaningful subsequent Senate consultation, that is, when the administration provides a written proposal so that Senate committees with appropriate expertise can read, discuss and provide feedback. Including Senate leadership on workgroups is an acceptable substitute only in rare cases of issues that are truly too urgent or too sensitive for full consultation. For example, including the Senate Vice Chair/Chair Elect on the Federal Actions Advisory Committee is a reasonable case where this is appropriate. But issues like the campus budget and graduate education funding are long-standing issues that warrant full consultation.

As you know, the Senate has become more agile in providing formal advice: through additional meetings, independent review, and subcommittees, Senate committees have responded quickly when warranted. We will continue to do so. Indeed, the Senate has repeatedly found ways to quickly respond to "time-sensitive" and "emergency" situations only to find that the Administration fails to act promptly (e.g., Data X, Research Park, graduate funding implementation). Invoking time sensitivity to avoid formal consultation damages trust and credibility when the alleged urgency repeatedly proves false.

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 77

Ten Percent

Straws in the Wind - Part 136

In House

Straws in the Wind - Part 135

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Brave New World - Part 2

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Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 76

Something Missing? - Part 2

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Subway traffic issues around UCLA this coming weekend

If at first...

Input

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Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 72

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Slow hiring

Straws in the Wind - Part 121

They must be somewhere

Straws in the Wind - Part 120

The Alternative Way to Read the Blog

Update on Vote

Nothing to See Here

Straws in the Wind - Part 119

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 69

No Rush

Cloudy Outlook

Straws in the Wind - Part 118

To underscore the main point: Meeting with Senate leadership and/or Senate committee chairs is not a substitute for Senate consultation. Nor is including Senate leaders on administrative workgroups. Administrators must not conflate conversations with individuals in Senate leadership positions and consulting with the Senate as an institution. This has occurred repeatedly, particularly in areas under the responsibility of the Administrative Vice Chancellor, leading to overall degradation of trust.

Instructional Modality during Emergencies. The administration does not have the authority to mandate remote instruction during emergencies. Only the Senate can make this decision. This authority was breached during the Spring of 2024, when a small (but serious) protest in one building led to a weeklong imposition of remote learning. Campus was open for all activities except instruction. This was a low moment for shared governance, and a clear instance of administrative convenience being prioritized over the academic mission. To avoid further such instances, the Senate developed a protocol for rapid decision-making regarding instructional modality during crises. The protocol was unfortunately not followed by Administration during the early weeks of January's fire emergency. At the Senate's insistence, the administration began following the protocol toward the end of the fire emergency, and the Senate demonstrated its ability to deliver clear and appropriate decisions about instructional modality when it receives accurate and timely information about emergency conditions.

Since that time, the Associate Vice Chancellor for Campus and Community Safety (AVCCCS) and the Assistant Provost and Chief of Staff to the EVCP have worked in partnership with the Senate to hone the protocol to ensure that campus is kept safe and that emergency decisions appropriately consider the academic. Good faith leadership by the AVCCCS in engaging with the Senate and following up give us reason to believe that genuine progress has been made in this area.

Moving Forward. The absence of consultation and lack of transparency regarding the budget is stoking toxic divisions among Faculty at a time when unity in the face of outside threats is essential.

Going forward, we ask the following:

1. The CFO will follow historic and systemwide norms in engaging with CPB: he will attend all meetings or send the AVC for Academic Planning and Budget in his place. CPB will receive written information on the state of the budget at the beginning of the academic year and throughout, with sufficient detail to allow it to offer meaningful input well before the finalization of the budget.
2. Administration will respect Senate authority over instruction and follow the protocol for changes in campus operating status.
3. The Senate will be included in groups convened for emergency planning from the outset, regardless of the nature of the emergency (physical threats to safety, federal activity, etc.) whenever there is potential impact on research and teaching.
4. All proposals that may affect the academic mission, even indirectly, will be formally reviewed by the Senate before implementation following our consultation process. This process includes space usage, IT and Goal V planning.

Senate leadership is accountable to the Senate Faculty as a whole. Across campus, Faculty are asking questions about the budget process, and about the state of shared governance at UCLA. These questions deserve answers. Toward this end, and in keeping with the Senate's ongoing commitment to transparency, we will post this letter on the Senate website. We hope to receive a reply from you that we can post as well. In response to Faculty concerns, the Senate intends to incorporate more frequent reports about the state of shared governance in Senate communication going forward.

We are happy to continue working to find ways to make Senate consultation more efficient and effective. We approach our role in shared governance with a spirit of good faith engagement and commitment to the academic mission. We hope for substantive, consistent, and strong shared governance in the 2025-26 academic year at UCLA, a time when our unity is so important.

Sincerely,

Kathy Bawn

2024-25 Chair, UCLA Academic Senate

cc: Julio Frenk, Chancellor, UCLA; Tim Groeling, 2025-26 Vice Chair/Chair Elect, UCLA Academic Senate; Andrea Kasko, 2024-25 Immediate Past Chair, UCLA Academic Senate; Megan McEvoy, 2025-26 Chair, UCLA Academic Senate

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Source: <https://dms.senate.ucla.edu/~councils.and.committees/?LgA.meetings>.

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Contributors

- [California Policy Issues](#)
- [Toby Higbie](#)
- [UCLA Faculty Association](#)

Straws in the Wind - Part 115

From the [Daily Pennsylvanian](#): *Students in the Wharton School's Executive Master of Business Administration program have raised concerns about course quality, rising costs, and the use of artificial intelligence within grading practices. The concerns — first reported by Poets&Quants — were shared during a virtual town hall event for Executive MBA students. Several speakers at the meeting alleged that the repetitive or unclear feedback they received on written assignments was indicative of the use of automated grading systems. Students in the program are required to disclose when they use AI tools on assignments, but they said similar*

requirements do not appear to apply to faculty. Speakers at the town hall also noted that when they asked instructors about deducted points, their grades were adjusted without explanation.

In response to a request for comment, a Wharton spokesperson described the school's disappointment "that comments from a closed Town Hall were shared publicly." ...The spokesperson added that Wharton has taken "steps to protect the confidentiality of internal meetings and discussions." ...

Full story at <https://www.thedp.com/article/2025/09/penn-wharton-executive-mba-ai-concerns>.



Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:20 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [U of Pennsylvania](#)

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 67



From the [Harvard Crimson](#): Harvard School of Public Health Dean Andrea A. Baccarelli received at least \$150,000 to testify against Tylenol's manufacturer in 2023 — two years before he published research used by the Trump administration to link the drug to autism, a connection experts say is tenuous at best. Baccarelli served as an expert witness on behalf of parents and guardians of children suing Johnson & Johnson, the manufacturer of Tylenol at the time. U.S. District Court Judge Denise L. Cote dismissed the case last year due to a lack of scientific evidence, throwing out Baccarelli's testimony in the process.

"He cherry-picked and misrepresented study results and refused to acknowledge the role of genetics in the etiology" of autism spectrum disorder or ADHD, Cote wrote in her decision, which the plaintiffs have since appealed...

Full story at <https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2025/9/24/autism-dean-public-health/>.

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